

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 16165 141201Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-20 RSC-01 L-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SAJ-01 OMB-01 IO-04 DRC-01 /065 W

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R 141102Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5634

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 16165

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, GW, GE, WB

SUBJECT: GDR REPORTEDLY SOURCE OF LEAK ON SCHIDT-
HONEYCKER EXCHANGE

REF: BONN 16163

1. USUALLY RELIABLE CONTACTS TOLD US THAT THE SOURCE OF THE LEAK TO "DIE WELT" ABOUT THE SCHMIDT-HONEYCKER EXCHANGE OF LETTERS IN SEPTEMBER (REFTEL, PARA 8) WAS A QUASI-OFFICIAL EAST GERMAN, PROFESSOR BERTSCH OF THE GDR INSTITUTE FOR POLITICS AND ECONOMICS. BERTSCH WAS REPORTEDLY IN TOUCH WITH SOME SPRINGER PRESS PEOPLE IN EAST BERLIN EARLY IN THE WEEK OF OCTOBER 1 TO PASS ALONG THE STORY. SINCE THE SPRINGER PRESS COULD NOT CHECK THE STORY IN BERLIN, IT REFERRED IT TO BONN WHERE THE LOCAL WELT CORRESPONDENT MADE SOME SOUNDINGS WITH THE SOVIETS. THE LATTER DID NOT CONFIRM THE STORY BUT WERE SIMPLY NON-COMMITTAL. THEY ARE NOW QUITE IRRITATED, OUR SOURCE REPORTS, THAT THE CHANCELLERY HAS BLAMED THEM FOR THE LEAK.

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2. COMMENT: IF THE ABOVE IS CORRECT, IT TENDS TO

CONFIRM THE FRG IMPRESSION (REFTEL) THAT THE GDR WAS TRYING TO PUT ACROSS TO THE SOVIETS, PRIOR TO BREZHNEV'S OCTOBER 7 VISIT TO EAST BERLIN, THE POINT THAT THERE WAS MOVEMENT IN FRG-GDR RELATIONS AND THAT FURTHER SOVIET PRESSURE ON THE EAST GERMANS IN THIS DIRECTION WAS UNNECESSARY.
HILLENBRAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

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To: STATE
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